

## IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday March 31st, 2024

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### IRTS Examination Board Announcement

The IRTS examination board is pleased to announce that a venue in Tralee Co Kerry has been approved for the upcoming exam on the 11th of May. The exam will be held in the Rose Hotel, Tralee, Co Kerry and will coincide with the exam being held at the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, Dublin 18. Registration at both venues will commence at 10.30 a.m. and the exam commences at 11.00 a.m., with a duration of 2 hours, finishing at 1 p.m.

Applicants who wish to sit the next exam but have not yet applied, should download, and complete the exam application form from the downloads section of the IRTS website. Applicants are also advised to consult the “Applying for an Exam” section on the IRTS website for instructions on how to proceed with the application or contact Mick EI6IKB via email at [irts\\_exams /at/ irts.ie](mailto:irts_exams@irts.ie). The deadline for applications is the 27th of April 2024.

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### IRTS 2m and 70cm Counties Contest

The IRTS 2m and 70cm Counties Contest takes place tomorrow, Bank Holiday Monday, April 1st. The fast-paced 70cm counties contest starts at 2 p.m. local time and runs for just thirty minutes. Immediately afterwards, the two-metre contest starts and runs for ninety minutes from 2.30 p.m. until 4 p.m. The modes used will be FM and SSB. Six different contest sections are supported which include a SWL category. Further information and the rules may be found at [www.irts.ie/contests](http://www.irts.ie/contests)

If you took part in the 80 metre Evening Counties contest on March 19th last, please note that the deadline for log submission is this coming Tuesday April 2nd.

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### Maritime Radio Day 2024

The annual Maritime Radio Day is fast approaching. This year, it takes place on the 14th and 15th of April to commemorate the almost 100 years of wireless telegraphy service for seafarers which ended with the closure in the UK of Portishead Radio on the 30th of April 2000. Commencing at 12:00 UTC on the 14th and finishing at 23:00 UTC on the 15th, this event is a great opportunity to QSO with ex-Marine Radio Officers and Coast Station Professionals who exchange details of their previous ships and coast stations. The mode of operation is CW, and all the HF bands are used including the WARC bands. At the time of writing, 130 operators were registered for this event featuring just two EI stations. A certificate of participation will be issued to all who submit results. Amateur Licence holders are invited to register and take part as “Friends of MRD”. SWLs may also submit logs. For more information, you can visit [www.radioofficers.com/mrd-2024/](http://www.radioofficers.com/mrd-2024/)

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## **World Amateur Radio Day**

World Amateur Radio Day will be celebrated on April 18th. The theme for 2024 is "A Century of Connections: Celebrating 100 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation, Community, and Advocacy". It is not a contest but a global event covering all the International Amateur Radio Union regions. It spans two days from Thursday, April 18, 2024, 0000 UTC to Friday, April 19, 2024, 0000 UTC. All radio amateurs and clubs are invited to take to the airwaves and to use the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and capabilities to the public.

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## **145 Alive Event on Saturday 11th May 2024**

The next 145 Alive event will take place on Saturday May 11th. This popular event is aimed at promoting 2m FM usage by operators on high ground, mobile, and portable. If you or your club is interested in setting up a net control station for this, please contact David Gardiner EI3IXB who is coordinating the EI side of this event. Interest is particularly requested from the west and northwest of the country for additional net control stations. David EI3IXB may be contacted via email at [ei3ixb /at/ gmail.com](mailto:ei3ixb@tiscali.ie).

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## **UKEICC 80m Contest**

The UK and Ireland Contest Club was formed ten years ago. The next 80m contest in their series is planned for next Wednesday April 3rd at 20:00 UTC using SSB. The bonus stations EI5G and G5GEI are expected to be active again but the operators for these were not yet published at the time of compiling the news. Updates may be found at [www.ukeicc.com](http://www.ukeicc.com) however.

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## **IRTS QSL Bureau**

The IRTS QSL sub-manager for member callsigns with the number five in them is Anthony EI6GGB. He wishes to remind everyone that anyone looking for number five QSL cards should contact him via email and to include your callsign. He will have QSL cards for distribution at the Shannon Basin Radio Club table at their rally in Ballinasloe on April 14th. Anthony's contact details may be found in Echo Ireland.

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## **Rally Reminders**

Shannon Basin Radio Club rally and monster raffle featuring approximately €3000 in prizes from fifteen sponsors takes place on Sunday April 14th. The venue is the Shearwater Hotel in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway as part of the 2024 IRTS AGM weekend. Doors will open at 10.00 a.m. and admission will be €5. Further information may be found at [www.sbrcl.ie/agmweekend](http://www.sbrcl.ie/agmweekend)

Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club's 40th rally takes place on Sunday 5th May 2024. The venue is the Share Discovery Village located at 221 Lisnaskea Rd, Lisnaskea, Enniskillen BT92 0JZ. Doors will open at 11 a.m. and admission is five euro or five pound which

includes a ticket for the draw on the day.

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### **Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News**

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to newsteam /at/ irts.ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

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